

REMARKS

**Status of Claims:**

Claims 2-7, 10-12, 14-16, 18 and 19 are pending in the application.

**Prior Art Rejection:**

Claims 1, 5, 6, 18 and 20-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,356,773 to Rinot. Claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Rino in view of the U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0253972 to Iwai. Claims 7-9, 16, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Rino in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0210801 to Naksen. Also, claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Rino in view of Naksen, and further in view of Iwai.

Further, the Examiner indicated that claims 4 and 10-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 4, and 10-12 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Claims 4, 10 and 11 are the sole independent claims. The remaining dependent claims 2-3, 5-7, 11, 14-16, 18 and 19 have been amended to dependent directly or indirectly upon the allowable base claims. Thus, all pending claims are deemed to be allowable in view of the examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 8, 9, 13, 17, and 20-22 are canceled.

**Conclusions:**

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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By

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